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PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: A-68556/RFT/SPL/469322-00004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Bernard, *et al.*

Serial No.: 09/770,770

Filed: January 25, 2001

For: *Simultaneous Screening and
Identification of Sequence Alterations from
Amplified Target*

Examiner: Tung, J.

Art Unit: 1637

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence, including listed enclosures, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Sir:

This filing is in response to the Office Action mailed March 24, 2003. As this Response is being filed with a Request for Continued Examination and a Petition for Extension of Time for one month, it is believed that no fees, other than those associated with filing the Request for Continued Examination and the one-month extension fee, are currently due. However, should the Commissioner determine otherwise, he is authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2319 (Our Order No. A-68556/RFT/ SPL/469322-00004). Reconsideration of the claims in light of the remarks that follow is respectfully requested.

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the instant application. Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guo *et al.*, (Nature Biotechnology, 1997 (15) 331-335) in view of Southern *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,054,270).